

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 4, 8, 11 and 15 have been amended, and Claims 2, 5, 9, 12 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15 and 18 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. and Kaneko et al. Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to recite "curing the coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at paragraphs 0005, 0006, and 0025. The Examiner indicated that Keener '230 teaches that the rivet and applied coating may be heated together to a suitable temperature in order to achieve heat aging and curing in a single step, referring to Keener '230 column 7, beginning at line 19. At column 7, lines 5-10, Keener '230 discloses that exposure of the coated article to a temperature of 200°F is clearly not suitable in order to achieve heat aging and curing of the article, in a single step. Claim 8 also recites the prior separate step of "heat treating aluminum alloy rivets to increase their shear strength." Claim 11 also recites the prior separate step of "obtaining a supply of aluminum alloy rivets which have been heat treated to increase their shear strength." At column 7, lines 45-50, Keener '230 teaches a preferred heat treatment of an aluminum-base alloy and coating at a temperature of 250°F followed by a ramping up from 250°F to 355°F and maintaining the temperature at 355°F for 8-12 hours, apparently to achieve heat aging and curing of the article in a single step. At column 10, lines 1-12, Keener '230 teaches a modified curing cycle of 375°F for 45

minutes, also apparently to achieve heat aging and curing of the article in a single step. Claims 8 and 11 also recite "maintaining the temperature of the coating and the heat treated rivets below a maximum temperature of about 300°F." It is respectfully submitted that the process to achieve heat aging and curing of the article in a single step according to Keener '230 is quite different than the two step process defined in Claims 8 and 11, wherein heat treating of the aluminum rivet is a separate step prior to curing of the coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour, and in which the temperature of the coating and the heat treated rivets is maintained below a maximum temperature of about 300°F. Keener '230 particularly contains no teaching, disclosure or suggestion that heating of the coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour would be sufficient to cure the coating, and it is respectfully submitted that Keener '230 in fact teaches away from a two step process of providing heat treated rivets, and heating of the coating of the rivets at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour to cure the coating.

Kaneko et al. was cited as teaching a method of improving corrosion resistance by treatments involving washing the substrate with a solution containing chromic acid and fluorides. However, at column 4, line 41, and column 5, line 32, Kaneko et al. teaches drying of treated aluminum articles at 130°C, which is approximately 266°F, whereas Claims 8 and 13 recite "curing the coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour." It is therefore respectfully submitted that Kaneko et al. also teaches away from the invention as claimed, so that it would not be obvious to combine Keener '230 with Kaneko et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 8-13 are novel and

inventive over Keener '230, Kishikawa et al. and Kaneko et al., taken individually or in combination, and that the rejection of Claims 8-13 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. and Kaneko et al. should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. and Kaneko et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al. Nonweiler et al. was cited as teaching grit blasting with aluminum oxide. Claims 1, 4 and 15 have been amended to recite "curing the coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at paragraphs 0005, 0006, and 0025. Claim 1 also recites the prior separate step of "heat treating aluminum alloy rivets to increase their shear strength." Claims 4 and 11 also recite the prior separate step of "obtaining a supply of aluminum alloy rivets which have been heat treated to increase their shear strength." It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al., taken individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest curing a coating at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour, as is claimed, and that in fact teach away from a two step process of providing heat treated rivets, and heating of the coating of the rivets at a temperature of about 250°F for about one hour to cure the coating, so that it is improper to combine Keener '230 with Kaneko et al, as discussed above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are novel and inventive over Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Kaneko et al., and Nonweiler et al., taken individually or in combination, and that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 15, 16,

18 and 19 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. and Kaneko et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LLP

By:

James W. Paul
Reg. No. 29,967

DGP/rvw

Encl.: Return Postcard

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
149688.1